

REMARKS

Claims 1-30 are pending. Claims 2 and 6 were amended. Withdrawal of all claim rejections is respectfully requested for at least the reasons set forth below.

Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement

Formal consideration of the Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement filed on September 16, 2005 is respectfully requested in the next Office Action.

Claim Objections

Claims 2 and 6 were amended to address the Examiner's claim objections. Accordingly, withdrawal of the claim objections is respectfully requested.

Obviousness-type Double Patenting Rejection

Applicants do not concede that claims 1-5 or 11-20 are not patentably distinct from claims 1, 5, 7, 8, 28 and 32-33 of U.S. Patent No. 6,690,601 (hereafter, "the '601 patent") in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,659,503 (Sudo et al.). However, to advance prosecution of the present application, Applicants submit a Terminal Disclaimer under 37 C.F.R. 1.321(b) herewith, stating that the '601 patent and the present application are commonly owned and disclaiming the terminal part of the statutory term of any patent granted on the present application which would extend beyond the full statutory term of the '601 patent.

In view of the Terminal Disclaimer, claims 1-5 and 11-20 are now believed to be allowable over the combination of the '601 patent and Sudo et al.

Conclusion

Insofar as the Examiner's rejections were fully addressed, the instant application is in condition for allowance. A Notice of Allowability of all pending claims is therefore earnestly solicited.

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(Date)

Respectfully submitted,

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Enclosures

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